

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 PER-05 AF-10 /203 W
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R 161500Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6857

INFO USUN NEW YORK 640

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5742

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, UNGA

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA

REF: A. STATE 184584, B. STATE 199150

1. PREOCCUPATION TUNISIANS WITH 9TH PARTY CONGRESS
JUST CONCLUDED PLUS NUMEROUS REASSIGNMENTS FOLLOWED
BY VACANCIES IN KEY POSITIONS AT MOFA AND USUAL
TUNISIAN SUMMER VACATIONS HAVE LIMITED EMBASSY'S
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH
RESPONSIBLE TUNISIANS DURING TIME FRAME SPECIFIED
REF B. AMBASSADOR HAS NONETHELESS MADE MAJOR
EFFORT ON KHMER ISSUE (TUNIS 5636) AND DCM HAS
DISCUSSED SOUTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST SUBJECTS
WITH SADOK BOUZAIENE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS IN MOFA. WE EXPECT HAVE FURTHER DISCUS-
SIONS THIS WEEK. IN CONVERSATION WITH BOUZAIENE,
DCM AGAIN STRESSED OUR DESIRE CONSULT FREQUENTLY ON
MATTERS THAT MAY COME UP AT UNGA AND BOUZAIENE RE-
SPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AS FONMIN HAD DONE WITH AMBASSADOR
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EARLIER.

2. SOUTH AFRICA - BOUZAIENE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY OUR POSITION ON POSSIBLE ATTEMPT EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA FROM UN BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT ON INTERNAL POLICIES. NOTED THAT OAU POSITION DIFFERED FROM OURS, HOWEVER, AND LEFT IMPRESSION THAT GOT WOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW AFRICAN LEAD THIS SUBJECT. SAID TUNISIANS COULD SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR POSITION PRIVATELY BUT THEY NOT LIKELY DO SO PUBLICLY. AS BOUZAIENE SEES IT, AFRICANS SEE LITTLE FORWARD MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA TOWARD EASING OF APARTHEID. AFRICANS ALSO HAVE LITTLE LEVERAGE. TO SOME AFRICANS AT LEAST, EXCLUDING SOUTH AFRICANS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IS ONE OF VERY FEW WAYS AFRICANS HAVE OF MAKING THEIR VERY STRONG FEELINGS KNOWN IN TANGIBLE WAY. HE ALSO SPECULATED ON WHAT IMPACT OF EVENTS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA MIGHT BE ON SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION, BUT CAME TO NO CONCLUSIONS.

3. MIDDLE EAST - AFTER LISTENING CAREFULLY TO POINTS DRAWN FROM PARA 15, REFTEL A, BOUZAIENE SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS NATURAL FOR PEOPLES WHO HAD BEEN SUFFERING FOR 30 YEARS TO WANT TO BE HEARD (HE DID NOT SPECIFY PALESTINIANS, BUT IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR), HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS UNLIKELY PROBLEM OF POLEMICAL DEBATE. ARAB GOVERNMENTS SHARED DESIRE FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST WITH U.S., AND WERE GENERALLY AWARE OF DELICATE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH NOW IN PROGRESS. THEY WERE, THEREFORE, IN HIS JUDGMENT, NOT LIKELY TO UPSET PROCESS BY ENGAGING IN UNHELPFUL DEBATE.
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